



Michael Katz

09/07/2006 01:42 PM
MST

To: yose_planning@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Tuolumne River/Meadows Plan EIS comments + Website bug reports

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TWSR-287-EIS
SEP 07 2006
P. 102
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Dear Friends,
Please accept the following scoping comments on the Tuolumne River Plan/Tuolumne Meadows Plan EIS. These were invited in a flyer for the 8/29 site visit, which I recently received by mail.

I wish these comments were more specific, but they're the best I can do. The Park Service has failed to provide clear links to pertinent source documents at the Website indicated on that flyer. That is a separate issue, which I will address below my substantive comments.

SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSES:

These are keyed to the questions listed on the flyer.

"What do you love about the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows areas?"

First, bridges. These graceful, historic bridges demonstrably contribute to these areas' outstandingly remarkable scenic values. (Or in plainer terms, they make the landscape more beautiful.) These bridges also promote, and facilitate, nonmotorized transportation through Yosemite Park -- a highly desirable goal -- because many of them are reserved for pedestrians, cyclists, and wheelchair users.

Second, campgrounds. Basic campgrounds near the river enhance the visitor experience by providing direct, close-to-nature camping opportunities. They also help maintain public access to, and enjoyment of, the park by allowing for affordable overnight lodging.

What areas should be targeted for restoration?

No "restoration" goals should be interpreted as justifying the removal of bridges or basic campgrounds. More broadly, I discourage any "restoration" activities that would degrade the areas' outstandingly remarkable scenic values in order to advance a narrowly defined goal of native-species propagation. As an example of this: No healthy mature trees should be cut down.

What facilities and services are or are not appropriate?

Bridges over the Tuolumne River are appropriate facilities. Basic campgrounds near the river, and in the broader Tuolumne Meadows area, are appropriate facilities.

What would you like to see protected?

Please protect and preserve all existing bridges, and all basic campgrounds, in these areas.

WEBSITE PROBLEMS:

I am dismayed by the Park Service's failure to provide online information that adequately helps the public submit pertinent, informed scoping comments on this effort. I encountered several problems.

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The first problem was the Web URL printed on the mailed flyer:
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/yose/>

This is an overly vague URL. It does not directly reference a page that highlights current planning efforts or documents. That's a problem because this URL does not reliably redirect to the generated page that is intended to display that information from your repository.

The second problem: If visitors succeed in navigating to your site's "Open for Planning" page:
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/openPlansEachParkDocs.cfm?parkId=347>

...that page does not show any documents whose titles are obviously related to the current "Tuolumne River Plan and Tuolumne Meadows Plan."

Third problem: The above page's claimed link to a document titled "Participant Guide: Planning in Tuolumne" is a dead link:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/showFile.cfm?projectId=14043&docType=public&MIMEType=application%252Fpdf&filename=Tuolumne%20Q%26A%2Epdf&clientFilename=Tuolumne%20Q%26A%2Epdf>

So that document cannot be downloaded.

Fourth and final problem, perhaps related to this dead link: All of your PDF files' names include spaces. This is a sloppy practice, which invites linking problems like the one above. Professional practice in a multi-platform environment (like the Web) is to remove all spaces from file and path names. To prevent such problems, please replace these silly spaces with-dashes or_underscores.

Thank you for considering both my substantive scoping comments and my suggestions for making your Website more usable. I believe you'll find that the small effort required to better provide online information will pay big rewards, by allowing your analysts to receive and efficiently review more pertinent and accurate public responses.

Respectfully yours,

Michael Katz

[REDACTED]
Berkeley, CA 94708
[REDACTED]



"Laine Hendricks"

09/07/2006 07:39 PM
AST

To: <YOSE_planning@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: Scoping Comments for Tuolumne River Plan and Tuolumne Meadows
Plan EIS

September 7, 2006

Mr. Michael Tollefson
Superintendent
Yosemite National Park
Attn: Tuolumne Planning
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

RECEIVED
7W5R-288-EIS
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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

RE: Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan & Tuolumne
Meadows Plan Environmental Impact Statement.

Dear Mr. Tollefson:

This letter is in response to your public scoping period on the intent to
prepare a draft Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan
and draft Tuolumne Meadows Plan.

The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) is America's only private,
non-profit advocacy organization dedicated solely to protecting, preserving
and enhancing the National Park System. NPCA was founded in 1919 and has more
than 300,000 members and supporters.

After careful evaluation, we list the following areas of concern for your
planning team to consider when drafting these management plans and
corresponding environmental impact statement. We elaborate on each below.

1. A BALANCE OF ACCESS WITH PRESERVATION

It is instinctual to preserve such spectacular terrain as Tuolumne Meadows.
However, as defined by the Organic Act, the National Park Service is required
to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife
therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by
such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future
generations. Therefore, our greatest concern is guaranteed access for all.
"Access" meaning the ability to see and experience the area—the ability to do
more than just "drive through." However, with rising visitors numbers each
year, we are concerned with maintaining a high level of resource protection so
these fascinating areas are protected for future generations. Thus, we
strongly urge the National Park Service to implement a user capacity
management plan—an attempt to evenly distribute visitors throughout the meadow
and decrease impact at one particular point, rather than prohibiting access on
busy days.

2. EMPLOYEE HOUSING OPTIONS

The current housing situation is difficult to evaluate. While "rustic" and
appropriate for the area's primitive ambiance, housing is grossly outdated and
poses a major burden to employees. For example, the canvas tent cabins are
difficult and dangerous to assemble/disassemble and refurbish each year—
resulting in heavy lifting and employees injuries. The living conditions
within these tent cabins can be difficult: damaged canvas can leak during
summer storms and nighttime temperatures can reach frigid levels. In
addition, erecting tent cabins consumes employee time that could be applied to
activities that contribute to an earlier opening date for Tioga Road. To

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eliminate several of these issues, we suggest erecting permanent, "hard top" housing to replace the tent cabins. In addition, this new (replacement) housing could be built in a manner that has a "rustic" look-keeping the Tuolumne and Yosemite feel, yet offering modernized accommodations for the employees. Though the current tent cabins were once "top of the line" when first implemented, Yosemite should now offer housing comparable to other park units in the National Park Service.

However, we realize that some employees enjoy the rustic lifestyle of tent cabin living. Therefore, if a large percentage of Tuolumne park staff prefer tent cabin housing, then we suggest creating a plan that would retain some of the tent cabins in the best, least problematic location. If employees prefer "hard top" structures, we suggest erecting at least one tent cabin each year to serve as an interpretive exhibit for visitors-preserving the history of Tuolumne and the tent cabin lifestyle

Also, if replacement housing is sought, we suggest exploring the possibility of non-emergency personnel housing outside of the park (e.g.: Lee Vining). However, it is also suggested that all resulting impacts be fully explored prior to implementation (e.g.: economic impacts to Lee Vining, subsidizing additional transportation costs to relocated employees, and other resulting factors).

3. FACILITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

The beauty of Tuolumne Meadows is its rustic and intimate nature. We fear any major new development (or consolidation of current development) would destroy the ambiance of this area. However, we are aware many buildings and facilities could be refurbished or redesigned to better accommodate visitors and add to the unique setting of Tuolumne. We encourage the National Park Service to make appropriate improvements to buildings and facilities in an effort to upgrade and/or make less visually intrusive. While we encourage all reconstruction to stay within the current footprint of the existing buildings, we would like to see visually intrusive facilities (e.g.: store and grill) set back from the road and landscaped with native trees-allowing facilities to be accessible without being eye sores. We also suggest that buildings be modeled to reflect the rustic atmosphere of Tuolumne-not resembling commercial structures.

In terms of facilities, we strongly urge the National Park Service to make all facilities compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The sewage and water treatment facilities should be upgraded to exceed current code, therefore, maintaining a longer "shelf life" for the future. Look to other park units (with similar outdoor alpine environments) for solutions-how do they handle sewage treatment in such a delicate ecosystem? We also suggest implementing facilities that reduce water and energy needs and implementing "green" building practices if any new structures or refurbishing should take place. We also suggest implementing "green" building practices in parking areas. One example would be "gridded" cement parking lots, which are more permeable than concrete and allow for natural run-off.

4. MONITORING AND MANAGING STOCK USE

Stock use in Tuolumne is a traditional practice and is essential in restocking High Sierra camps. We strongly urge the National Park Service to implement appropriate management practices to reduce impact. This includes trail use, invasive plant species from stock food sources, and manure run-off. We also have concern with the proximity of the lower stables to the river and surrounding employee housing. We suggest investigating the possibility of housing both NPS and concessionaire stock at the upper stable to avoid further impact to the area.

5. ADDRESSING RIVER NEEDS

Since the Tuolumne River is designated Wild and Scenic with a corridor that is mostly in wilderness, we strongly suggest using the more stringent of the two management types when applicable. We are concerned that roadways and bridges be implemented only if absolutely essential to the area—not for convenience. We would like to see watershed and water quality management improved—keeping water quality consistently high throughout the Tuolumne River corridor.

One of the greatest assets to Tuolumne Meadows and the Tuolumne River corridor are the various access points for visitors to enjoy. While we do not want to see those limited or removed, we feel it is necessary for the National Park Service to identify what recreational activities are appropriate for certain areas of the river and provide educational resources (literature, signage, more rangers). to inform the visitors of such practices.

6. TRANSPORTATION

Parking is a major concern that needs to be properly addressed. Much of the resource damage and visual intrusion could be improved with some parking management initiatives. While turnouts along Tioga Road allow visitors to explore the meadow on their own terms, it can damage the meadows and become an eyesore on busy days. To resolve this, we suggest: 1) Increase the number of "barrier rocks" along Tioga Road, keeping parked cars in the designated turnouts and out of the meadow, and 2) consider parking "nodes"—small parking areas nestled in the trees to reduce parking numbers along the road. That said, however, the use of parking nodes should be evaluated using the appropriate environmental analysis methods to ensure that the delicate trees of this alpine environment are not damaged by the construction of a parking node.

Access to cost-attractive mass transit options should be offered in the area. "Attractive" meaning lower shuttle fare, more arrival/departure times, and shuttles that accommodate recreational use (bikes, kayaks, etc). Through greater use of the already existent shuttle options, many visitors could park in Yosemite Valley and utilize mass transit options—further freeing up the Tuolumne Area for a more intimate ambiance.

Biking is another mode of transportation that could be expanded within Tuolumne Meadows. With the implementation of a bicycle rental program and more designated bicycle trails, campers and visitors could visit dispersed facilities without utilizing their cars. Also, bicycle lanes would reduce risk of bike-vehicle accidents.

Above all, we strongly urge that the cost of these transportation and parking methods be evaluated as cost effective prior to possible implementation.

7. BETTER VISITOR EDUCATION, PARK EXPERIENCE

In general, much of the resource damage that takes place in the meadow could be eliminated with proper education—signage, literature, and wayside exhibits. Also, educational materials need to be available several languages to accommodate the many international visitors Yosemite hosts each year. It would also be beneficial to have educational materials suitable for children—to instill "leave no trace" practices at a young age.

Dangerous driving could be reduced with increased signage on roads and the implementation of "speed humps" (if spring-time snow plows could accommodate the uneven road additions). Also, steps should be made to have consistent/accurate road signs. In terms of properly educating visitors to avoid traffic/parking jams, perhaps an "early alert" system could be employed. Once a capacity is reached for parking in Tuolumne, law-enforcement rangers could radio the gate to inform incoming visitors of alternate areas to visit or park. In addition, accompanying signage could also reflect the early alert system—instructing visitors of alternative areas to go. Thus, reducing

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resource damage, traffic jams, and disgruntled visitors.

Finally, the educational material in the visitor center should be expanded to offer more education and principles. Wayside exhibits throughout the meadow and ranger discussions could also spread the message of responsible use, while educating the visitor of Tuolumne's rich history. However, we would like to see all signage in the meadow, both existing and new, placed at a lower height and less visually intrusive to the overall panoramic vista of the meadow.

8. PROJECT FEASIBILITY

We are certain the Yosemite National Park planning staff will create an comprehensive management plan for Tuolumne River corridor and meadows area. However, we strongly suggest the National Park Service work to create an effective plan that can be implemented according to the current financial situation of park. Basically, we hope the planning team will evaluate the financial resources available to the area and plan accordingly.. Also, in the draft environmental impact statement, we ask the planning team to present the alternatives in "dollar and cent" terms-how does the proposed alternative(s) compare to resources available to effectively implement the alternative?

Thank you, Mr. Tollefson, and the staff and management of the National Park Service, for the opportunity to share our comments in preparation for this environmental impact statement. Please feel free to contact our organization with any questions.

Sincerely,

Laura Whitehouse
Laine Hendricks
Central Valley Program Manager
Central Valley Program Coordinator
National Parks Conservation Association
Parks Conservation Association

National



NPCA - Tuolumne Public Scope - 09-07-06.pdf



09/07/2006 11:42 PM
GMT

To: YOSE_Planning@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Regarding the Tuolumne Plan

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TWSR-289-EIS
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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Dear Superintendent Tollefson,
ATTN: Office of Planning & Compliance
Attn: Tuolumne Planning

As the Yosemite Mono Lake Paiute Indian Community the Tuolumne Meadows is the ancestral homeland of the Yosemite-Mono Lake Paiute tribe and has been since prehistoric time. In the *Handbook of the American Indians*, published in 1906, the book specifically names the Paiute village of Numaltachi along the Upper Tuolumne. Numa is what we Paiutes call ourselves.

Mono Lake, the capital of the prehistoric Paiutes, is located 12 miles from the eastern entrance of Yosemite National Park. Tuolumne is only a couple of miles away from the eastern entrance and the headwaters of the Tuolumne River. This would indicate that this is also part of the ancestral homeland of the Yosemite-Mono Lake Paiutes, also called the Kutzadika'a. The Upper Tuolumne was a Paiute area. C. Hart Merriam, whom the park quotes frequently, in *Studies of California Indians*, C. Hart Merriam; Edited by the Staff of the Department of Anthropology of the University of California - 1955 pg 76 it states that Paiutes and Miwoks had "bloody" battles. In Charles Frederick Hoffmann (1838-1913), "Notes on Hetch-Hetchy Valley," *Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences* (San Francisco: CAS, 1868), series 1, 3:5, pp. 368-370, states that the first non-Indians, Joseph, Nate, William Screech, entered Hetch Hetchy and the Upper Tuolumne stated that Paiutes and the Big Creek Indians (Miwoks from the lower Tuolumne) had a battle over Hetch Hetchy around the late 1850s which the Paiutes were victorious and held Hetch Hetchy. That is why there are pictographs or petroglyphs in the area, because that is a Great Basin Numic (Paiute) trait and not Miwok. In fact a lot of the current Tuolumne Miwoks are originally not from the Tuolumne area, but from the San Joaquin Valley floor. Their chiefs made agreements with Charles Webber, the founder of Stockton, to go work for him and other whites in their gold mines of the lower Tuolumne. That is documented in *The Works of Hubert Howe Brancroft*, 1888, Vol. XXIII pg 76-74 and in *Coulterville Chronicle, the Annals of a Mother Lode Mining Town* by Catherine Coffin Phillips, 1942.

So we of the Yosemite-Mono Lake Paiutes would like the true history of the Upper Tuolumne, which is located in Yosemite. The Paiutes had the area above Big Oak Flat and the Miwoks were below that point that is also chronicled in *Big Oak Flat road to Yosemite* by Margaret Schlichtmann. We believe that the "official" Yosemite ethnologist, Craig Bates, did not use any of this information when others tried to do findings and reports on Tuolumne Meadows and the Tuolumne River. We Paiutes believe that Craig Bates also recommended his own mother-in-law, Dorothy Stanley, as technical advisor when her family is not from Tuolumne, but from Calaveras. Where is the Yosemite-Mono Lake input and reports. You use Brian Bibby, who studies Miwoks, Craig Bates who was married to a Miwok and has a Miwok son, His mother-in-law, Dorothy Stanley, and employees of Yosemite National Park who are going for federal recognition as Southern Sierra Miwoks. That is why Yosemite is getting a biased view of only Miwoks in Yosemite and the park area. Where is our Paiute representation? Where is our history in the park? Where is our "Paiutes in Yosemite Loop" and Paiute village? Since we were

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the original people of Yosemite in the first place. We would like Paiutes included in the Tuolumne River plan and Tuolumne Meadows planning since it was our area.

Yours Truly

David Andrews, Chairman of the Yosemite-Mono Lake Paiute Indian Community

[REDACTED]

Sacramento, Ca 95816

[REDACTED]



"Lloyd Carter"

[Redacted]

09/07/2006 05:58 PM
MST

To: <yose_planning@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: Tuolumne Planning

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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Superintendent
Yosemite National Park
Attention: Tuolumne Planning Process
PO Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

September 7, 2006

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Lloyd Carter. I am president of the California Save Our Streams Council, a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation founded in 1981 and dedicated to the protection and restoration of Sierra streams, particularly those creeks and streams in the middle portion of the Sierra.

We wish to make the following points regarding the Tuolumne Planning Process:

- 1) The NPS should strive to reduce commercial exploitation of the Tuolumne Meadows area and the Tuolumne River corridor.
- 2) The "High Sierra Camps" at Tuolumne Meadows, Glen Aulin, and Vogelsang should be removed, the sites restored, and the Glen Aulin and Vogelsang sites should be designated as wilderness, as provided by the California Wilderness Act of 1984.
- 3) The NPS should reduce use of the Tuolumne Meadows/River areas by commercial packstock enterprises, and the NPS should adopt controls to reduce the impacts of these enterprises (i.e., require smaller group sizes for parties with stock, prohibit all grazing, designate campsites for parties with stock, remove all stock-holding facilities (i.e., corrals) from park lands, designate some trails for "foot travel only," require diapers on horses to reduce water/trail pollution, etc.). As one who has personally trodded through the "manure dust" on too many High Sierra trails overused by pack animals, I can attest to the fact we need more foot travel only trails.

Our organization also fully supports and endorses the scoping comments submitted by the High Sierra Hikers' Association.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Lloyd Carter
President, California Save Our Streams Council

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Clovis, CA. 93619




"Eric Wesselman"

[REDACTED]

09/07/2006 06:11 PM
MST

To: <YOSE_Planning@nps.gov>

cc:

Subject: scoping comments

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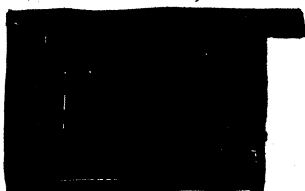
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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Tuolumne River Trust comments attached and coming by fax as well

Eric Wesselman
Executive Director
Tuolumne River Trust
Fort Mason Center, Building C
San Francisco, CA 94123



TRT Scoping comments-Final.doc

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Tuolumne River Trust

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September 7, 2006

Mr. Mike Tollefson, Superintendent
Attn: Tuolumne Planning
Yosemite National Park
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, California 95389

Dear Superintendent Tollefson:

The Tuolumne River Trust appreciates this opportunity to comment on the scope of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan and the Tuolumne Meadows Concept Plan. The Tuolumne River Trust was founded in 1981 by a group of dedicated volunteers in order to gain wild and scenic status for the Tuolumne. Since that time, the Trust has grown into a professional conservation organization with 5 full-time staff, 3 offices, and nearly 1,500 members.

The Tuolumne River Trust is dedicated to promoting the stewardship of the Tuolumne River and its tributaries to ensure a healthy watershed, and as such, shares the Yosemite National Park's interest in developing a Tuolumne River Plan that will best protect and enhance the Tuolumne's outstanding values.

The comments that follow identify some of our specific areas of concern and our recommendations for the scope of these plans. The Trust submitted additional comments authored by Bob Hackamack and Ron Stork as part of a collaborative effort between several groups and individuals that are generally in-keeping with the Trust's positions.

Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan

Relationship to Other Plans and Policies

Management of the Tuolumne River corridor within Yosemite National Park seems to be covered by various plans and policies such as the Yosemite National Park General Management Plan, the National Park Service Wilderness Policy, the Yosemite Fire Management Plan, and the Concessions Services Plan. We recommend clarifying the relationship and interaction of the Tuolumne River Plan to these existing plans and policies.

Coordination with Other Agencies

In developing a Tuolumne River Plan, we recommend that the National Park Service coordinate planning efforts with other agencies to ensure that all 83 miles of the Wild and Scenic Tuolumne are protected. In particular we recommend that the NPS consult with the Stanislaus National Forest and Bureau of Land Management, to ensure that Yosemite's Tuolumne Plan contributes to the protection and enhancement of downstream ORVs.

We also encourage the National Park Service to collaborate with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to ensure protection of drinking water quality and to address the impacts that the Hetch Hetchy water system has on the Tuolumne's ORVs.

Baseline Information, Mitigation, and Monitoring

The Tuolumne River Trust recommends that the National Park Service use resource conditions at the time of designation in 1984 as a baseline for evaluating "non-degradation" of river resources in the years since designation. Given the amount of time that has lapsed since the designation of the Tuolumne River as Wild and Scenic, we believe mitigation measures are needed to mitigate for any degradation of the ORVs over the years. We recommend designing reintroduction programs for any species that may have been extirpated from the Tuolumne River corridor.

The Trust is specifically concerned about the possible degradation of River Segments 5 and 6 over the past two decades. We are also concerned about the apparent lack of ecological monitoring of this stretch of River below O'Shaughnessy Dam. We recommend a rigorous ecological monitoring program be developed for River Segments 5 and 6 as part of the Tuolumne River Plan that will better inform the SFPUC's flow schedule and provide information that can direct future restoration efforts.

Impacts of existing facilities on ORVs

We recommend that NPS analyze existing facilities, including the Dana Fork Dam, Tuolumne Meadows facilities, and Raker Act facilities within the Wild and Scenic corridor, to assess their impacts on the Tuolumne's ORVs.

River Segments 5 & 6 below O'Shaughnessy Dam

For River Segments 5 and 6, the *Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Outstandingly Remarkable Values Draft Report* identifies the ORVs as Hydrologic, Geologic, Biologic, Prehistoric and American Indian Cultural, Historic, Scenic, and Recreational. In developing the Tuolumne River Plan, we recommend that Yosemite National Park investigate the relationship of the flow regime below O'Shaughnessy to the protection of these identified ORVs. While it is the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and not Yosemite National Park who controls the releases from O'Shaughnessy, the Department of Interior has dictated and influenced the SFPUC's flow schedule over time. A great opportunity exists with the development of the

Tuolumne River Plan for a more collaborative approach for determining the flow schedule that would best protect and enhance these ORVs.

The SFPUC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are currently planning a new study of the present flow schedule below O'Shaughnessy Dam in order to allocate additional releases to support the needs of the aquatic ecosystem. The SFPUC is also proposing to increase withdrawals from the Tuolumne by 2030 and the possible impacts of this diversion are currently being studied as part of a Program Environmental Impact Report. We encourage Yosemite National Park to collaborate on these studies to ensure protection of the ORVs.

Wild and Scenic Boundary

The "Notice of Intent" published in the Federal Register states that the National Park Service will develop a range of management alternatives that is intended to, among other things, address river boundaries and classifications pursuant to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The interagency Wild & Scenic reference guide notes that most rivers have flexible boundaries to accommodate specific features and river values. We recommend that the National Park Service consider a river boundary based on the Tuolumne River's hydrologic and geomorphologic attributes. This would likely require widening the boundary beyond an arbitrary measurement (i.e., ¼ mile on each side of the high water mark) in order to protect sensitive river-related ecological features such as meadows and wetlands.

Whitewater Recreation

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act supports the public's ability to float rivers in protected wilderness areas. The Trust recommends that the National Park Service explore a management alternative that would open all sections of the Tuolumne River within the Park to boating. Also, the Trust is concerned about how the operation of O'Shaughnessy Dam impacts downstream whitewater recreation activities. As stated above, we encourage the Park Service develop a collaborative approach for determining the flow schedule below O'Shaughnessy that would best protect and enhance the ORVs, particularly the recreational values.

Tuolumne Meadows Concept Plan

The Trust supports a Tuolumne Meadows Plan that has the goal of preserving the wilderness characteristics of the area while enhancing the visitor experience.

We encourage analysis of positive and negative impacts of the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, tent cabins, park buildings, roads, campgrounds and employee housing have on the Tuolumne River corridor with particular emphasis on existing parking facilities, including illegal parking activities, on the Tuolumne Meadows environment and the ORVs identified for this River segment (hydrologic, geologic, biologic, prehistoric and American Indian cultural, historic, scenic, and recreational).

We support the exploration of a transportation plan that would address increased public transportation, while decreasing impacts on the sensitive Tuolumne Meadows area.

Conclusion

The Tuolumne River Trust is committed to working with Yosemite Park staff in a collaborative and productive manner to develop a management plan that successfully protects the River's outstandingly remarkable values while enhancing the visitor experience at the same time. We believe that the best plan will come about through solution oriented collaboration that includes active inclusion of the public so that no group or interest feels left out or that their views are not heard or considered. This should include active collaboration with other agencies that are inextricably related to this planning effort. As the organization that formed around the effort to designate this stretch of the Tuolumne as a Wild and Scenic River twenty five years ago, the Trust is looking forward to playing a key role in this effort.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with Yosemite Park staff to discuss the Tuolumne River planning process, and will be contacting your staff shortly to set up a meeting.

Sincerely,



Eric Wesselman
Executive Director



Kevin Proescholdt

09/07/2006 08:59 PM
EST

To: <yose_planning@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: Tuolumne Planning

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SEP 07 2006

P-1071
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Dear National Park Service Staff,

I am submitting these comments on the Tuolumne River Plan and Tuolumne Meadows Plan in Yosemite National Park. As someone who has visited Yosemite and Tuolumne Meadows, I strongly urge the NPS to protect these areas' wilderness character.

In particular:

- 1) The NPS should strive to reduce commercial exploitation of the Tuolumne Meadows area and the Tuolumne River corridor.
- 2) The "High Sierra Camps" at Tuolumne Meadows, Glen Aulin, and Vogelsang should be removed, the sites restored, and the Glen Aulin and Vogelsang sites should be designated as wilderness, as provided by the California Wilderness Act of 1984.
- 3) The NPS should reduce use of the Tuolumne Meadows/River areas by commercial packstock enterprises, and the NPS should adopt controls to reduce the impacts of these enterprises (i.e., require smaller group sizes for parties with stock, prohibit all grazing, designate campsites for parties with stock, remove all stock-holding facilities (i.e., corrals) from park lands, require diapers on horses to reduce water/trail pollution, etc.).

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please make my comments part of the official record.

Thank you!

Kevin Proescholdt

Minneapolis, MN 55406

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"Marsh Pitman"

[Redacted]

09/07/2006 07:14 PM
MST

To: "YOSE Planning" <yose_planning@nps.gov>

cc:

Subject: Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management
Plan/Tuolumne Meadows Plan EIS

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TWSR-293-ELS

SEP 07 2006

P-181

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan/Tuolumne Meadows Plan EIS

I understand the reason that the Hetch Hetchy reservoir is not included in the TWSR CMP; however, I believe it is only a matter of time until the reservoir is drained. Thus, it is appropriate to consider the following questions:

If the Hetch Hetchy segment becomes a free-flowing river again, what will be the process used by the NPS to revise the Tuolumne River Comprehensive Management Plan to include the Hetch Hetchy segment? What are the impacts of the reservoir on the biota above and below the reservoir? What policies would guide the NPS regarding restoration of the Hetch Hetchy Valley (reservoir segment)?

Marsh Pitman

email: [Redacted]

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"Laura Timby"

09/07/2006 10:40 PM
EST

To: <yose_planning@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: Toulumne planning

RECEIVED
TWSR-294-8/S
SEP 07 2006
P. 1081
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to comment on the Tuolumne River/Tuolumne Meadows Plan as follows:

1) The NPS should strive to reduce commercial exploitation of the Tuolumne Meadows area and the Tuolumne River corridor.

2) The "High Sierra Camps" at Tuolumne Meadows, Glen Aulin, and Vogelsang should be removed, the sites restored, and the Glen Aulin and Vogelsang sites should be designated as wilderness, as provided by the California Wilderness Act of 1984.

3) The NPS should reduce use of the Tuolumne Meadows/River areas by commercial packstock enterprises, and the NPS should adopt controls to reduce the impacts of these enterprises (i.e., require smaller group sizes for parties with stock, prohibit all grazing, designate campsites for parties with stock, remove all stock-holding facilities (i.e., corrals) from park lands, require diapers on horses to reduce water/trail pollution, etc.).

Thank you for your consideration, and please, keep America Wild!

Laura Timby

Gilbert AR 72636

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Californians for Western
Wilderness

09/07/2006 09:07 PM
MST

To: yose_planning@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Tuolumne Meadows/River Scoping Comments

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TWSR-295-ELIS
SEP 07 2006
p. 182
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

September 7, 2006

Yosemite Planning Team

Via email: yose_planning@nps.gov

Re: Tuolumne River and Meadows Scoping

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing on behalf of the more than 750 members and supporters of Californians for Western Wilderness (CalUWild), an unincorporated citizens organization dedicated to encouraging and facilitating citizen participation in legislative and administrative actions affecting wilderness and other public lands in the West.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the planning for the Tuolumne Meadows area and the Tuolumne River corridor. It is an area that is very dear to many of our members and to me personally. I have been camping and hiking in the area for nearly 50 years, since I was a baby. I still go there at least once a year. We used to camp in the Sierra Club campground near the Soda Spring, until it closed.

One issue that desperately needs to be addressed is the use of packstock in the Meadows area and in the entire watershed. The amount of horse manure on the trails is appalling. It seems that commercial horse use of the area has increased markedly over the years. This contributes to water pollution, in addition to being unsightly and awfully smelly. Manure may also be a source of invasive weed seeds. It is time for horses and mules to be permanently banned from the entire area. If this is not feasible, then their numbers should be severely curtailed and they should wear diapers. Of course, that does nothing to stop the urine puddles on trails – which are also very smelly.

The Park must commit to enforce existing regulations (such as the prohibition on keeping packstock in the Meadows overnight between trips) until such time as a new policy regarding packstock is developed. As mentioned, our preference would be to see commercial horse operations removed. A study should be undertaken to see how much private horse use could be allowed. Again, our preference would be for none. The area is just too susceptible to their impacts.

I would like to see the campground stay open later in the year if possible. I usually make my

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annual visit to the Meadows in late September, and the campground is often closed already, meaning that auto travel to other campgrounds is necessary, with travel back to the Meadows the next day for hiking.

The Park should seriously consider removing the gas station in Tuolumne Meadows. Gas is available at Crane Flat and just outside the Park east of Tioga Pass, in addition to Lee Vining. The gas station lends a commercial atmosphere to the Meadows that shouldn't be there.

The Park should take a hard look at the High Sierra Camps in the Tuolumne area and probably close them. They are beyond the reach of the average citizen both in terms of price and probability of getting a reservation. It would be much better to remove them and restore their sites to a natural condition. Their continued operation results in habitat and landscape degradation, pollution from soaps and sewage. In any event, non-wilderness-conforming activities such as non-emergency helicopter access to the camps should be banned.

The High Sierra Camp areas should finally be included in the wilderness designation intended by Congress in the 1984 California Wilderness Act.

Finally, the Soda Springs should be inspected regularly to see that human activities, such as people putting rocks or wood down them, are not clogging the springs. It seems there is quite a bit less water coming out from them in recent years, especially the ones to the left of the entrance to the enclosure.

Thank you for considering the above comments. Please keep us on your mailing list and informed of further opportunities to participate in planning for Tuolumne Meadows and the River. We look forward to receiving the draft plan.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael J. Painter
Coordinator

=====
Californians for Western Wilderness

San Francisco, CA 94121-0474
=====



George Whitmore

[REDACTED]

09/07/2006 09:20 PM
MST

To: yose_planning@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Tuolumne Planning

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TW5R-296-EL5

SEP 07 2006

P.1083

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Sierra Club
c/o: George Whitmore
[REDACTED]
Fresno, CA 93755
[REDACTED]

7 September 2006

Office of Planning and Compliance
Yosemite National Park
ATTN: Tuolumne Planning
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Fax: 209/379-1294

This is being e-mailed to: yose_planning@nps.gov

To whom it may concern:

The following comments are submitted on behalf of the Sierra Club. Thank you for this opportunity to make suggestions which hopefully will be of use to you in your efforts to protect the visitor experience and the natural resources of Yosemite National Park.

These are scoping comments intended to identify issues which we believe your planning processes should address for the Tuolumne Planning projects.

We believe there are two major issues which are foundational, and which affect everything else. They are:

1. A legally adequate Merced River CMP needs to be in place first.

The Tuolumne River Plan needs to be put on the back burner until the Park Service can demonstrate to Judge Ishii and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that it can create a legally adequate Comprehensive Management Plan for the Merced Wild and Scenic River. Planners have failed twice, the Courts declaring both the 2000 and 2005 versions invalid. Additionally, the District Court recently ruled that VERP, the Park's primary user capacity program, "is not oriented toward preventing degradation" and is not valid under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Park officials have publicly stated that the Merced River Plan has provided the learning foundation for preparing the Tuolumne Plan. A protective Merced River Plan must be a first priority. The Tuolumne River Plan is already 19 years late; a little more delay would enable the NPS to benefit from learning what the courts will require in order to have a legally valid Merced River Plan.

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TW5R-296-215
p. 2 of 3

2. The Tuolumne River CMP and the Tuolumne Meadows Plan need to be separated or de-coupled.

To conduct scoping for both Plans at the same time puts the public at a distinct disadvantage. Until the Tuolumne River Plan is finalized and the public knows what guidance it will provide, it will not be possible to offer meaningful scoping comments on the Tuolumne Meadows Plan. As a programmatic document, the Tuolumne River Plan will provide guidance with respect to zoning and the range of activities that may typically be found within the various zones in Tuolumne Meadows. As an implementation plan, the Tuolumne Meadows Plan will tier from the Tuolumne River Plan. The latter is the zoning blueprint that will establish boundaries, classifications, user capacity and protection of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values. There should be a Record of Decision for the Tuolumne River Plan before there is any scoping and plan development for Tuolumne Meadows.

Notwithstanding the uncertainty generated by the above considerations, we make the following additional suggestions:

There needs to be some acknowledgment that, at such time as the Hetch Hetchy segment of the River becomes free-flowing again, there will be a process to incorporate that portion of the River into the Comprehensive Management Plan. Just as the back country in Yosemite was managed as Wilderness prior to the formal Wilderness designation in 1984, a newly liberated Tuolumne River could be managed as Wild and Scenic (and/or as Wilderness) even though it may not have been formally designated.

Alternatives to having cars parked along the shoulders of the main road need to be considered. Simply banning roadside parking is not an acceptable solution without having first established practical alternatives. Years ago the Cathedral trailhead was well served by having a parking area among the trees; that arrangement seems to have been vastly preferable to the present road-shoulder parking. Good locations for other small parking areas need to be determined.

Within the Tuolumne Meadows area, centralized parking with a mandatory shuttle system has been considered in the past. This would have a huge impact on the quality of the visitor experience. Any consideration of such a system should be done only as a separate planning process with full NEPA review. It should not be allowed to creep in unnoticed in the mass of other issues being laid before the public. This has been a major flaw in previous planning processes, and the error should not be repeated.

The frequency and hours of operation of shuttle service between Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows should be addressed. At present, it appears to be inadequate.

That shuttle service should be free, or at least cheap enough that price is not a deterrent.

The frequency and hours of operation of free shuttle service between Olmsted Point and Tioga Pass should be considered.

The presence of the High Sierra Camps continues to be problematic in Yosemite. Their impacts on water quality, visitor experience and the health of affected high elevation meadows and wetlands are issues. High Sierra Camps in a national park also pose social equity issues and contribute to the cost of necessary trail maintenance from stock use. These issues need to be acknowledged and mitigation identified before a CMP for the Tuolumne River is in place.

In general, stock use in the Tuolumne River corridor needs to be acknowledged and examined as a part of this planning process. Stock use and the grazing of stock in high elevation meadows throughout the park is a major contributing factor to a back-log of trail work as well as serious water quality concerns; stock use is a major contributing factor to the introduction of the brown-headed cow-bird (and subsequent demise of songbirds) and the spread of seed from exotic plants in Yosemite.

How can the damage caused by stock use be mitigated? Existing degradation of the trail to Cathedral Lakes is a prime example of what can go wrong.

Appropriate capacity for the current campground needs to be determined. Is it presently too low? Too high?

Appropriateness of the present campsites which are very close to the River needs to be considered. Could those sites be eliminated? Could the road circulation pattern within the campground be modified, and the present campground road which parallels the River be converted to a trail? The present situation appears to be impacting the River, and the visitor experience, needlessly.

Is the present trail system within the Tuolumne Meadows area the best possible? Should there be any new trails? Closure of existing trails? Rerouting or realignments?

Much of the concern articulated above would not be an issue if user capacity were addressed in a meaningful way.

It is possible that a day-use reservation system would logically be part of addressing user capacity. But the circumstances in Tuolumne Meadows are so vastly different from those in Yosemite Valley that the desirable management actions would not necessarily be the same. So we are not advocating a reservation system for the Meadows, but it probably should be discussed.

Thank you for seeking public input on the Tuolumne Planning project. We hope you find our comments to be useful, and that you take them into account.

George Whitmore, Chair
Sierra Club's Yosemite Committee

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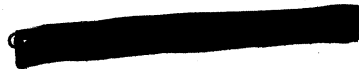
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Sept 7 2006

Toolumne Planning Staff:

These two scoping input packages
are submitted by USPS as backup
for the identical packages
submitted by e-mail this date.

Bob Hackamack



Tuolumne W&S River CMP and Tuolumne Meadows Plan Scoping Input 9-7-06

From Bob Hackmack

Twain Harte CA 95383-1886

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SEP 07 2006

P.187

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Tuolumne Planning Staff:

It has been a pleasure meeting with all of you at various locations where I learned about your goals and the process for reaching them. Please include these items in your scoping for the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) and the Tuolumne Meadows Plan (TM Plan). Conceptual ideas for the CMP and action ideas for the TM Plan are mixed together in this input. I ask you to separate them into scoping input for the two plans as needed even if the separation means duplication.

The "Draft Report June 2006" on "Outstandingly Remarkable Values" (ORV Report) in the river corridor hints that elimination of all trout species (p 8) in glaciated segments which appears to be Poopenaut Valley and higher elevations (p 17) would bring the river environment closer to pre European contact conditions and better protect a number of river dependent species. I ask that you fully consider in both the CMP and TM Plan the impacts both positive and negative of removal of trout on one hand and continuing the no-stock approaches that I understand now exists on the other. A third option would be elimination of trout from upper reaches that are above natural barriers. The removal idea must include Hetch Hetchy Reservoir since it definitely supports non-native trout species. Also, please explore the possibility that birds, other animals or Native Americans could have transported trout upstream since the last glaciers receded. John Muir in *The Yosemite* writes about the presence of fish in many lakes in this vicinity (p 165 in the 1988 printing, in the last paragraph of his section "THE UPPER TUOLUMNE EXCURSION"; p 169 in the 1962 printing).

On first reading of the ORV Report I felt that all the values and specifics within each was overstated by repeated use of superlatives. Then I reflected that I have 48 years of familiarity with this river where I have hiked, backpacked, climbed both source peaks, fished and camped along nearly all of the river length in the park. Then I remembered my wonder at and superlative memory of visiting Glacier National Park a couple of years after first visited parts of the Tuolumne River in YNP. Glacier has such grand, rugged, vertical mountainsides, hanging glacier, streams and glacial lakes that stand out in my memory today, that I realize that my long familiarity with the TR has dulled my appreciation for all that is special here.

One ORV of this area that is not mentioned is the varied, spectacular and long views in ORV 1f. and 2f. from the source peaks of Mt Dana and Mt Lyell. John Muir expressed them well (ibid, 1988 printing, p 159-63). I recommend you include his observations in your introductory section if not in 1f. and 2f.

Another ORV in 3e. Historic, is that the highway, which is busy in summer, is closed to vehicle traffic from the first substantial snow usually in November to about June 1 in years of normal snowfall. Only a few ski, snowshoe, and animal tracks are seen there in

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winter. Discuss the road closure staying that way as well as the economic pressures and environmental and economic costs of opening earlier.

I appreciate your attention in the ORV report to human history, routes, structures, sites, and natural features like Soda Spring in this part of the park.

A serious oversight is now apparent in the 1979 Draft and Final "Tuolumne Wild & Scenic River Study and Environmental Impact Statement". "Alternate A" from the original studies, as shown in Figure 2 of the ORV Report (p 4) does not agree with the law. The law creating the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River says, in part, "Tuolumne, California - The main river from its sources on Mount Dana and Mount Lyell in Yosemite National Park to Don Pedro Reservoir consisting of approximately 83 miles as generally depicted on the proposed boundary map entitled "Alternative A" contained in the Draft Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Study and Environmental Impact Statement published by the United States Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture in May 1979; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture" (98 Stat. 1632). Full text is in a footnote below. You will note there is no room for interpretation of the words "...from its sources on Mount Dana and Mount Lyell in Yosemite National park to Don Pedro Reservoir..." whereas there is room for re-measurement and adjustment in the segments shown in your map by the words, "...approximately 83 miles as generally depicted on the proposed boundary map entitled 'Alternate A' contained in the Draft..." (emphasis added). It is my opinion that you **may** correct the number of miles of designated river in YNP in your CMP, you may specifically depict the river segments from their "sources on Mount Dana" and must produce a final boundary map for the river in YNP where the CMP and/or TM Plan goals for the designated river amend the GMP. You have already begun to do this by recommending that your Segment 6 (wilderness boundary below O'S Dam to park boundary) be classified wild due to the ORV's in spite of the reduced flow as compared to Segment 4 (Tuolumne Meadows to HH Reservoir). The Draft W&S Plan says (p 34 - 38) the then forthcoming General Management Plan for the park will guide how the W&S segments in the park are managed. Now, I understand that this CMP will itself be an amendment to the GMP of 1980. I believe you must make the corrections to the map that the specific law wording requires.

I suggest you consider one of the "sources on Mount Dana" as the tiny lake at approximately 11,200 feet elevation and the tributary from it located about 0.75 mile west of Mt Dana summit. The stream named Dana Fork ending at 11,680-foot elevation below the saddle between Mt Dana and Mt Gibbs (on the Mt Dana, CA 1994 topo) might be one of the less desirable "sources on Mt Dana" since it partly drains Mt Gibbs also. If you adopt this idea, address the wisdom of classifying this tributary from its source on Mt Dana to its confluence with Parker Pass Creek as wild since it is more than 1/4 mile from Highway 120, is all in wilderness, and is easily identifiable on the ground.

At the same time you correct the Alternate A map for the source on Mt Dana, I propose that the unnamed tributary of Dana Fork originating in Dana Meadows near the Tioga Pass Entrance Station that is shown in the "Alternate A" map and on Tioga Pass, CA

1994 topo be recognized as an unnamed, unmeasured (i.e. adding no miles to the W&S river) source tributary in scenic classification for the purpose of letting visitors who pass that way see one of the "sources on Mount Dana". To that end I recommend that a visitor information sign be placed at the small parking lot there which will call attention to the pothole meadow as one of the sources of the Tuolumne W&S River that stretches to Don Pedro Reservoir then by the non-designated river that flows through farmland and through Modesto to its confluence with the San Joaquin River some 162 miles away (or however you measure it is from the highest visible source of flowing water on the Mt Lyell Glacier at that I have observed at about 12,000 ft elevation (Mt Lyell, CA 1994 and Vogelsang Peak, CA 1994 topos that show USA Corps of Engineers mile markers). Many visitors, staff and employees would see this sign while fewer will see the higher sources on Mt Dana and on the Lyell Glacier.

The focus of responders to the 1979 river reports (and possibly of the authors) was on the wild river proposal in the Stanislaus National Forest and BLM area and on the competing four-dam project in the 29-mile Forest Service and BLM portion of the study river. The river in the park was important, but not threatened by looming development.

More information on the team thinking in 1979 might be gained from team members Carl W Rust who is no longer at the Forest Service and I am vague as to where he is now living, Gary Barbano, Geographer at NPS, Michael Skinner, Economist at FS. Hugh Riecken, Forester at BLM and James Mills, Geographer at Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (Final Plan p 107). Files for the team are at Stanislaus National Forest Supervisors Office in Sonora (532-3671). John Maschi a planner may be able to help locate them. Missing from the Final Report are any of the transcripts of the three public hearings. Those may be with the permanent Report files.

The extent of the TM Plan is not Tuolumne Meadows as shown on topo maps, but reaches to all segments of the T W&S R CMP. Otherwise there may be no implementation of CMP goals without waiting perhaps another 22 years. For example if the CMP recommends only the existing trail be maintained to Poopenaut Valley, then the present primitive human-use-only nature of that trail must be kept as a park purpose in the TM Plan because most of that trail is outside the T W&S R corridor. To implement the vision of the CMP, many others areas similarly must be included in the TM Plan that are outside the traditional Tuolumne Meadows, such as Tioga Pass, Dana Meadow, Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp, relocation of domestic water supply away from the Dana Fork, overnight camping in Parker Meadow when the water supply is relocated, any trail in the river corridor that becomes a goal of the CMP for relocation, trail bridges that need repair, relocation or replacement, needed but intrusive trail maintenance in the designated river corridor, research areas on Lyell Glacier or at Pate Valley or anywhere along the designated wild segments, and Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

Tioga Pass Entrance visitor parking and interruptive area seem too small. I favor more interpretive signs there and at other places where visitors pass on foot or park. Screening of these signs would be wise where screening is available.

Is TM campground adequately divided as to use? I understand that pets are allowed throughout the TM camp area? For what is the D Loop camp area now used? I noted on Aug 29 walk-around that camps in the river-side of A Loop appear worn with lots of trees, but few green plants on the ground. Is wear general in the TM campground and can anything be done to improve campsites toward a natural camping area?

Is TM Lodge adequate for the parking and vice versa? Lodge visitors should hear interpretive programs about the W&S river flowing beside the lodge. Is there staff and budget for this at the fire circle overlooking the Dana Fork? If not, what can be done to provide these? Is the corral near the lodge a threat to water quality in the river? Could a few trees be placed within the otherwise bleak Lodge parking area, which is within the scenic river zone?

Are places and budget for evening interpretive programs in the campground adequate? Is more staff or budget needed for adding programs on river ORV programs (where the river comes from and where it goes, lack of trout and lack of native frogs, how water and a river of ice formed this part of the park, spring flooding and accretion)?

Visitor capacity of the TM area is directly related to the traffic plan for Hwy 120. What is the traffic plan as related to number of vehicles that have TM as a destination and those visitors and others just driving through? Are there facilities available for the drive-through visitor, e.g. a sign to a restroom to lure them into short-term parking where they can't help viewing the Cathedral Range and Tuolumne River, feel the cool breeze, or see and hear the Dana Fork and see Mt Dana? I know from experience that the restroom facilities at Tenaya Lake were inadequate in ca 2002 for the drive-through and day-use demand. There is a hint from news reports that 45-foot long busses and large motor homes may soon be traveling to TM and through it on Highway 120. How would these large vehicles and large capacity busses impact infrastructure and parking needs in TM?

I took an informal count of the restroom facilities accessible to visitors driving through on Aug 29. I counted 12 fixtures for women, 12 for men and 3 specifically for handicapped men and women. The two vault toilets at Lembert Dome parking lot seem the least adequate for campers and visitors passing through, although extremely well located out of sight. Is this number of fixtures adequate for expected peak visitor use? None of these seem water use efficient except for the vault toilets.

Does the number of cars, trucks and busses that pass through TM compromise air quality? If so, what can be changed? If there is a problem, would propane fuelled or fuel cell driven busses reduce the number of cars and trucks and also improve air quality?

Is shuttle bus service from other park locations adequate for employees and visitors including hikers and day-trippers from YV, White Wolf, and Lee Vining? Does shuttle bus service relieve the demand for parking at TM? I found the half-hour TM shuttle bus service around useful on Aug 29 when facilities were at less than capacity use.

In the Aug 29 walk-around away from the highway, the only sounds I heard above human voice and afternoon breeze was a Harley, a commercial jet faintly at high altitude and a loud military jet at mid altitude. Probably not much can be done about street-legal

Harleys, but in the CMP and TM Plan discuss the disturbing noise from military jets and the lesser disturbance from the commercial jet corridor over the park. Just as there are necessary military air zones where civilian aircraft must not go, there is need to have wilderness areas where military jets must not go. I have no quarrel with the need for emergency medical flights or sirens along the highway in the park.

Explain how winter occupation is necessary or useful in TM? I understand there are two people here in winter. Are winter quarters adequate?

Are electrical, phone, piped propane, water, solid waste removal and sewer infrastructure adequate now and for any planned increase in staff, employees and in some cases the main campground users and drive through visitors? On Aug 29 I observed that the District Ranger Station looks suitably rustic and even quaint. The District Ranger told me that his working space was nearly adequate, but that his building needed rehabilitation. Discuss the adequacy of this and other staff workspaces, housing for staff and concessionaire employees and what rehabilitation is needed and what the cost and source of funds might be. I'm aware that there are many millions of dollars in deferred maintenance in the park. How much deferred maintenance costs are in the TM area including the wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system? What extra costs do those deferments place on the park in the TM area? Do these deferments impact the T W&S R zone?

Are quarters for emergency medical personnel, fire, and law enforcement adequate and properly located?

Is the pack stable in the best location for protecting the river corridor, keeping the smell and flies away from visitors and employees while serving the visitor need? On Aug 29 this year I observed that manure is collected and a removal system is in use, however it appears that rain runoff goes to a meadow near the river. Discuss these points and any needed changes or additions including the relocations recommended in the 1980 GMP at p 28. I'm not advocating that the unaccomplished recommendations on p 28 and 29 be implemented since some of them are misguided as seen from 26 years later and would diminish my enjoyment. For example, walking on what appears to be a historic road and trail crossing of the meadow and the footbridge is very important to me.

Are visitors to a broad TM region negatively impacted by wildlife, and vice versa? If so, what steps are needed to reduce conflict?

Are John Muir and Pacific Crest trails appropriately located and maintained for the traffic expected? Do these major trail users impact other park visitors? If so, how can conflicts be reduced?

Are existing rain gauges and snow load cells detrimental to the W&S river zone where they are located, to visitors or to wildlife? I am in favor of these devices where unobtrusive and I expect more of them to be needed in the future. A letter from the California Resources agency in the Final GMP EIS discusses the need for these and other matters of interest in TM (p113). I foresee that unobtrusive stream gauges will be needed should O'S Dam is removed.

Are there enough walk-in campgrounds and parking spaces for them?

Are remote campsites adequate and well located to protect water quality and serve the number of users expected, for example at Lower Lyell CG?

Are grasses in TM predominately native or introduced? If introduced, I'd favor moving toward more native species.

The wilderness boundary at Cathedral Lakes trailhead on Hwy 120 appears on the topo map to be far enough back from the pavement to allow for an adequate parking area among the trees. Was that boundary drawn with a parking lot in mind? There is no doubt parking is needed there off the highway. Would rerouting the main trail also help?

Species list and rough population censuses are needed before any building is done in the larger TM area to allow factual check on impact projections and mitigation measures.

Will fire strategy for the river corridor be the same as in wilderness, and for the river corridor not in wilderness will it be the same as for the portion of Tuolumne Meadows not in wilderness?

The possibility of the gravel road from the highway to the stable being paved with 3 to 4% asbestos containing rock was mentioned at the Aug 29 walk-around. If this exceeds EPA or park limits, when will this road and the parking shoulder along it be paved or otherwise changed? What will any change cost?

Two visual aspect of the TR struck me during the Aug 29 walk-around: The view of the TR from the footbridge near Soda Spring was fascinating and beautiful, with remarkable clarity of the river and the several colors of the bedrock underneath. By contrast, walking across the highway bridge was stressful because there is no place for pedestrians to walk except in the traffic lane and I couldn't see the river nearby because of the necessary concrete bridge rail. In addition the walk along the highway from Lumbert Dome parking area to the store was stressful because there is no path for pedestrians to walk on except the narrow pavement edge or an uneven and narrow shoulder at a lower elevation. This area is stressful because it is unsafe. In the CMP and TM Plan consider a foot traffic and bicycle bridge and path downstream or upstream of the highway bridge in this section of highway, or other means of improving safety and visitor experience.

Include in any discussion of white water boating the applicable California case law in the Fall River and American River cases.

Hetch Hetchy Valley must be considered in the CMP and TM Plan since the Tuolumne River at that location is the diversion point for an unfiltered water supply for 2.4 million in the Bay Area and for Groveland. High water quality (TDS and microorganisms) is correctly one of the ORV for the river in the source tributaries and main stem, the capacity and completeness of treatment at the TM waste treatment plant and disposal system are the main potential threat to water quality of the river. Conversely, interruption of silt migration at Hetch Hetchy Reservoir has an impact on the river below O'S Dam all

the way to Don Pedro Reservoir. As I understand the silt load in the river entering Hetch Hetchy Reservoir largely winds up in Priest Reservoir well away from the river. Diversion from the river at O'S Dam for power generation is up to four times as much as used for domestic consumption so the environmental and physical impact of power diversion is the main impact. Tell us if migration of wildlife along the designated river corridor is interrupted by the presence of the dam, reservoir and project works. I want you to address the goals, baseline data gathering and action steps in the CMP and TM Plan for these two aspects of river health and others that are identified as being caused by or influenced by the existence of the O'S Dam impoundment, project works and its diversion from the river in these two plans.

I want you to address the goals, baseline data gathering and action steps in the CMP and TM Plan for all aspects of river health and other impacts that are identified as being caused by or influenced by the existence of the O'S Dam impoundment, project works and its diversion from the river.

Evaluate the impacts of the recent suggestion by Richard Sklar, President of SFPUC to raise Hetch Hetchy Reservoir into the designated river corridor upstream and surrounding park, and proceed with actions that seem to be required under Section 7 of PL 90-542, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System Act of October 2, 1968. The 1981 study for SFPUC on raising the reservoir by various heights will be mailed to the Tuolumne Staff shortly. Also, evaluate the impact on the designated stream below the O'Shaughnessy Dam that this raising would have.

Discussion if the CMP and TM Plan can take place simultaneously has occurred.

One of the planning team indicated to me privately at a scoping meeting that the TM Plan will be reopened for scoping after the CMP draft plan review time ends, if the CMP draft plan and public comments identifies goals that are not addressed for action in the TM Plan portion of that draft. That extra opportunity for scoping may satisfy some critics of presenting the two plans in the same draft document. Please state that option, if I understand it correctly, in the draft and on your web site early in the process to show that more scoping and further review could be provided prior to the final reports.

What I like to do when in the Tuolumne Meadows area: Over the past 48 years, I have hiked, bird watched along the road, photographed, taken water from the Soda Spring for a W&S river celebration in the Bay Area, looked at the river along with the mountains and sky, visited the wastewater treatment plant with park staff 30 years ago, bought gas at the station, driven through at night as the shortest way home, bought breakfast at the lunch counter after a bear ate my fish and dry food while backpacking, slept behind the visitor center at the end of Sept, fished for trout, camped in the rain in the "dog camp", camped at the walk-in camp at Soda Spring, hiked up Lembert Dome, attended evening campground programs, hiked in Parker Meadow and on Mammoth Peak, hiked to Waterwheel Falls, and up Mt Dana; backpacked to Budd Lake, to source lakes of Kuna Creek, Sardine Lake, June Lake, Merced Lake, and O'Shaughnessy Dam via the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne; backpacked and climbed Mt Lyell, Mt McClure, Vogelsang Peak, and Mt Ansel Adams; and eaten ice-cream from the store and laid in the meadow grass at the end of long backpack trips. These are the things I have done and love to do,

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even the close encounter with bears. My visits to TM are more varied and are about equal in number to my visits to YV.

Relation of GMP to CMP and TM Plan The *Tuolumne Wild & Scenic River Study Draft Environmental Statement and Study Report*, 1979, page 35-38 describes the upcoming GMP that will focus on protecting river values in the park. The Draft GMP EIS Aug 1978 is disappointing in that it has only one short paragraph that speaks of the T W&S River Study (in progress) p 45 with no mention of river values. In Fact the Draft, Final, and Summary GMP and Summary of the Natural Resources Management Plan, July 1977 all focus little on resources, but mostly on human built things that could impact the resources or visitors enjoyment of the resources. The focus is on roads, parking, trails, trails in fragile meadows, campgrounds, lodging, staff and employee housing, stables, water supply, sewage treatment and disposal, food service, swimming pools and gift shops, historical and cultural resources that are fragile and often located near rivers and the number, location and size of these manmade features. That's ok for Cathedral peak, which doesn't move or rapidly wear away. However, I'm disturbed by that approach since rivers do move, change their banks, provide recreation in many forms and need attention and management to protect water quality, frogs, too much non-native fish stocking and visitor access that can damage banks. Meadows are fragile and social trails long lasting. In the TM Plan these manmade things must be limited, rehabilitated and made accessible to visitors. In the CMP goals for the river and its floodplain, these must be comprehensive and exhaustive discussed and options offered. For the river and its floodplain, the CMP is far more important than the vague GMP, which almost totally ignores this river. The only bright spot in the Final GMP is a couple of letters talking about the TR p 94-98 and even some of the park responses have not been well followed up. Yes, this amendment to the GMP is needed and is important for this park resource.

Footnote: From 16 USC 1274(a), i.e. from section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act:

Codified legislation: (53)

Tuolumne, California - The main river from its sources on Mount Dana and Mount Lyell in Yosemite National Park to Don Pedro Reservoir consisting of approximately 83 miles as generally depicted on the proposed boundary map entitled "Alternative A" contained in the Draft Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Study and Environmental Impact Statement published by the United States Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture in May 1979; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture.

After consultation with State and local governments and the interested public and within two years from September 28, 1984, the Secretary shall take such action as is required under subsection (b) of this section.

Nothing in this chapter shall preclude the licensing, development, operation, or maintenance of water resources facilities on those portions of the North Fork, Middle Fork or South Fork of the Tuolumne or Clavey Rivers that are outside the boundary of the wild and scenic river area as designated in this section.

Nothing in this section is intended or shall be construed to affect any rights, obligations, privileges, or benefits granted under any prior authority of law including chapter 4 of the Act of December 19, 1913, commonly referred to as the Raker Act (38 Stat. 242) and including any agreement or administrative ruling entered into or made effective before September 28, 1984.

For fiscal years commencing after September 30, 1985, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this subsection.

Legislative history: Pub. L. 98-425, title II, Sec. 201, Sept. 28, 1984, 98 Stat. 1632; 16 USC 1274(a). Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Pub. L. 90-542, Oct. 2, 1968, 82 Stat. 906.

TUOLUMNE WILD AND SCENIC RIVER COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK & BLM LANDS

AND TUOLUMNE MEADOWS PLAN

RECEIVED

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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Supporting Organizations for this scoping input include:

Planning and Conservation League,

Gary Patton, 1107 9th Street Suite # 360, Sacramento CA 95814

Restore Hetch Hetchy,

Ron Good, POB 3538, Sonora CA 95370

Friends Of The River,

Ron Stork, 915 20th Street, Sacramento CA 95814

Tuolumne River Preservation Trust,

Eric Wesselman, POB 933, Sonora CA 95370

September 7, 2006

Principal authors Bob Hackamack [REDACTED] and
Ron Stork [REDACTED]

Executive Summary

Table of Contents

I. Introduction

A. Background (History and Legislative Direction specific to the river)

- Include information from the NPS, FS joint 1979 River Study Plan and EIS, narrative history of Tuolumne Wild & Scenic River designation (Hackamack, TRPT, and F.O.R. libraries). Current legislation and legislative history are noted at the end of this outline and can be referenced here.

Visualizing River Values

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- Would the National Park Service encourage scoping respondents to suggest quotations related to the Tuolumne River and nearby features to aid the plan reader in visualizing the setting and outstandingly remarkable values of the river? Writings of John Muir and other visitors to northern Yosemite would be examples.
- The Me-Wuk people lived here for centuries. The Mono and Piute people may have lived here and surely traveled through this area for trade. All these nations history, habitations, camp sites, food gathering practices, tool making, trading routes, stories and religious beliefs would add much to this section and would be a guide to management of the river zone and Tuolumne Meadows

B. Purpose, Scope and Need for the Plan/Project

- Planning history (Forest Service, BLM Tuolumne W&S plans) and history of NPS Tuolumne W&S River planning efforts would be interesting here. Discuss W&S river plan completion requirements in statute and recent case law.
- This planning effort may require the first NPS post designation Tuolumne W&S segmentation, boundary delineation, classification, and management plan completion in this comprehensive planning effort. If the NPS believes that these decisions have already been made consistent with applicable law, this history needs to be documented, and the desirability of reviewing and/or revising previous decisions should be one of the early focuses of the planning team.
- Scope of plan is a critical decision. Restatement of statutory requirements for W&S river plans will begin to help clarify the Parks deliberative process. However, the most important critical issues that the plan must address as well as those issues that Park Managers have the authority to address and desire to address (including the subset of management or facility modification recommendations which may require changes in statutory authority in order to implement) need to be identified early in the planning effort in order to most successfully take advantage of this planning opportunity. Issue allocation and depth of treatment of issues to be treated in W&S river plan vs. other park plans also need to be confronted successfully. (An argument can be made that the Tuolumne River W&S river management plan can and should be both a comprehensive programmatic plan as well as a project level plan for some actions and decisions.)
- What is the scope and physical extent of the Tuolumne Meadows Plan?
- Use of Parker Meadow is tied to the diversion dam on Dana Fork, so could Parker Meadow be included in the Tuolumne Meadow—as a Tuolumne and Parker meadows plan?

C. Planning Context and Organization

1. Relationship to other Federal, State, Local, Tribal Government

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Plans

Internal NPS Planning efforts

- Relationship of Tuolumne W&S river management plan to other NPS organic act planning efforts affecting the Tuolumne River should be discussed. Consider appropriate consolidation of plans. Clarify details of which plans will address which decisions.

Planning Efforts of other Agencies and governments

- Are there any concerns from the Bureau of Land Management that need to be addressed in this management plan for the segment of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River they manage above Don Pedro Reservoir? Ascertain whether the BLM would like to accomplish a plan update for their portion of the Tuolumne within the NPS W&S river management plan. Ask the Stanislaus National Forest Service if they need to open any issues they share jointly with other river managers.
- Are there any concerns from the Inyo or Toiyabe National Forests that should be addressed in this management plan?
- The BLM portion of the W&S river is impacted by flows released at Holm Powerhouse, Kirkwood Powerhouse and O'Shaughnessy Dam. The development of a release schedule from Holm Powerhouse that has a higher degree of certainty would be a key interest to the whitewater community. While we are sensitive to SFPUC's interest in maintaining flexibility for power generation, releases that occur with no prior notification on unscheduled day are of little use to the boating community. The Tuolumne River is simply too far of a drive for private or commercial paddlers to use on an opportunistic bases. We would like see if improved forecasting could help provide additional recreations days, particularly on the weekends, in the future.
- USFWS and SFPUC are currently planning a new study of the present release schedule below O'Shaughnessy Dam to see if it meets the needs of the aquatic ecosystem. How will the NPS and BLM plan be incorporate this recreation need into this study?
- Are there any other concerns from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that need to be addressed in this management plan?
- Are there any concerns from the Bureau of Indian Affairs that need to be addressed in this management?
- Are there concerns from the several Bands of the Me-Wuk Tribe living near the park and near the BLM portion of the river that need to be addressed?
- Do Tuolumne County and Mono County have views about river values and about how the river is managed?

2. Relationship to Federal Regulatory Agencies

- Note the FERC non-jurisdictional status of Raker Act facilities located upstream and downstream of NPS Tuolumne W&S river corridor. Regulatory jurisdiction and authority of Federal agencies for Raker Act facilities should be described. Any San Francisco non-Raker Act facilities should be identified.

- Does EPA have concerns about water quality on the Tuolumne in any river segments in the park, or about other issues in this river zone?

3. Relationship to Regional Coordinating Entities

- Description of jurisdiction, authority, mission and interests of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board – and their likely interests in management actions and facilities affecting water quality of the Tuolumne River within YNP and in BLM managed area.
- Contact Air Districts for and Transportation Districts for their concerns, and consider institutional arrangements for handling solid waste as they relate the this river plan and Tuolumne Meadows plan.

D. Planning Process and Public involvement

- Involve the public so that no group or interest feels left out or that their views are not heard or considered. Distance yourself from any appearance that the Park is representing the concessionaire goals while giving the concessionaire equal chance to speak for their interests. In a word, let your work be transparent to public view.

II. Description of River Setting and Resource Values

A. Overview

1. Regional River Setting

- Would you include as an unusual feature of this river that there are no or two winter residents in or near these designated segments in the park from the time of road closure in fall until snow is cleared from Highway 120 in late May or June?

2. River Classification, Segmentation, and Boundary Determinations.

- Review 5(a) segmentation, classification, and boundary “determinations.” Reiterate statutory 5(a) segmentation, classification, and boundary status defining “interim” status before post-designation segmentation, classification, and boundary decisions. Review statutory authority to undertake this review and determination. Develop decision-making process, approach, philosophy, criteria to guide review and decisions to make these determinations, and for any subsequent review of these determinations.
- Discuss and define management implications of these determinations on NPS facilities, SF Raker Act facilities, SF non-Raker Act facilities, and SF maintained NPS facilities.
- Which tributaries are to be identified as “sources on Mount Dana and Mount Lyell” (see footnote) that will be included in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River? Where and at what elevation do they have their origins? Would the National Park Service accept suggestions?

- Will the Park Service use the words of the Act as stated above and in the footnote, "as generally depicted on the proposed boundary map entitled 'Alternate A'" in the Act, or a combination of the two in identifying the tributaries which Congress designated?
- For interpretive purposes, would the park consider the fork originating in Dana Meadow as one of the "...sources on Mount Dana and Mount Lyell..."?
- How wide will the river corridor be in wild, scenic and recreational zones inside and outside Yosemite Wilderness? (The interagency W&S reference guide notes that most rivers have flexible boundaries to accommodate specific features, river values [and we would argue, management objectives].)
- Will river corridor boundaries be drawn by the current method of smooth lines one-quarter mile back from the stream bank, indefinite section lines, or survey lines using physical terrain features?
- What are the benefits, drawbacks, and Wild and Scenic Act requirements to designate segments in non-wilderness portions of the Tuolumne River in Tuolumne Meadows? (The interagency W&S reference guide notes that most rivers have flexible boundaries to accommodate specific features, river values [and we would argue, management objectives].)
- Can river segments designated as wild cross into non-wilderness parts of the park? For example, could this idea apply along Dana Fork?

3. Landscape character (description of existing development level by segment)

- Insert some photographs of the world-class landscapes in Tuolumne Meadows, Dana Meadows, Poopenaut and Pate valleys as well as the water features, falls and canyons of the Tuolumne River.
- Insert photographs of Tuolumne Meadows Campgrounds and the lodge and Glen Aulin high sierra camp to show how development fits into the environment. Also show the waste treatment plant and disposal site, stables, Dana Fork diversion dam, gasoline station, highway bridge, some of the trail bridges and other features that may or may not need modification, improvement or removal.

4. Land Ownership and Land-Use Description (includes level of development)

- Do Lyell Glacier monitoring studies have positive, negative or no impacts on the Tuolumne River corridor?
- Consider Raker Act facilities within or near potential and determined W&S river corridor and SF maintained NPS facilities.
- What positive and negative impacts do the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, tent cabins, park buildings, roads, parking lots, campgrounds and employee housing have on the Tuolumne River corridor? Should any of those that are impacting the river corridor be modified or relocated?
- Is river flooding a threat to any facilities or structures? If so, can they be relocated or flood proofed?
- What impact and benefits do the stables have on the Tuolumne River corridor?

- Are there park transportation, air quality and visual goals related to and that are or will impact the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River and its corridor?
- Are there fuel, fuel additives lubricants, waste and domestic water treatment chemicals or other chemicals in the watershed that threaten the river and river corridor (e.g. from the service station or vehicles on the highway)? Is mitigation or prevention needed?
- Are highway vehicle emissions a threat to air quality in the river zone or Tuolumne Meadows campground or employee housing?

B. Free-flow values and impacts

- What impact does the presence of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and Canyon Tunnel have on human use of the river corridor? Recommendations?
- Identify facilities that alter the bed and bank of the river within W&S river corridor (e.g. riprap, bridges, utility crossings) that have effects.
List decisions or recommendations to undertake modifications, or removal of impacting influences.

C. Outstandingly Remarkable Values (sufficiently detailed to serve as baseline for desired management direction and monitoring)

- Review 5(a) ORV determinations and descriptions. Reaffirm and refine if required. The Draft ORV plan is a good start.

D. Other River Related Resource Values (as applicable)

1. Water (Quality, Quantity, Rights)

- Search for a replacement for Dana Fork Dam as a water supply and when successful, remove that dam.
- We think it would be helpful to find an alternative water supply and to reduce wastewater volume by using water conserving measures and low flow fixtures. Few low flow water closets are seen in TM.
- Do waste water collection, treatment, transmission and disposal for Tuolumne Meadows visitors and staff have impacts in the Tuolumne River corridor in Tuolumne Meadows?
- Are wastewater leak prevention and safeguards against vandalism along transmission lines, at the treatment plant and to the disposal site adequate to protect water quality in the Tuolumne River?
- Are backup power supply and/or storage adequate during power outages to protect from overflow of waste and contamination of the Tuolumne River?
- Is infiltration amount known and controlled to prevent overload of the treatment and disposal system?
- Should any of these waste treatment and disposal facilities be relocated or modified?
- Is the impact of visitors, visitor facilities (Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, store, campground, gasoline station, stable and backcountry users) and their solid waste

disposal know and controllable on the water and air quality in the Tuolumne River at Tuolumne Meadows? How are solid wastes including straw and manure disposed?

- Is the amount and impact of visitors, staff and employee solid waste known and controllable at the campground, housing and chalet compound at Hetch Hetchy?
- What impacts including water quality impact does the pack animal stable have on the Tuolumne River and the Tuolumne River corridor?
- Is air pollution now damaging the Tuolumne River or its corridor? If so, how can these impacts be reduced or mitigated?
- What impact do pack animals and their waste have on the Tuolumne River and the Tuolumne River corridor?
- Discuss the role and purpose of campgrounds as support structure for accommodation of the visitor experience for a diverse set of visitors. That is, do campgrounds have a positive or negative impact on the visitors who don't use the campground?
- Discuss the role and purpose of stables as support structure for accommodation of the visitor experience of a diverse set of visitors and the utility for park operation of the stables. That is, do horses and pack animals have a positive or negative impact on the visitors who don't ride horses or use facilities supported by pack animals, and would that impact be more positive or more negative if the NPS were the operator?

Water Supply:

- Where would the water supply source and location for Tuolumne Meadows be shifted from the diversion dam on Dana Fork? Would this replacement supply impact the Tuolumne River more or less than the Dana Fork diversion dam?
- Is our understand correct that domestic water diversion from Dana Fork is about 100,000 gallon per day for about three months a year at Tuolumne Meadows?
- What water saving devices are and will be in use in Tuolumne Meadows to reduce the amount of wastewater produced?
- Will resumption of overnight camping in Dana Meadow impact the water quality of the Wild and Scenic Dana Fork and any other designated tributary in that watershed after the water supply is relocated?

2. Water resource project development (Need/Value)

- Can a horizontal collector system (horizontal wells) be used for a water supply for Tuolumne Meadows replacing the dam on Dana Fork?

3. Access, transportation, rights-of-way, land use authorizations

- Do shuttle busses cause fewer or more air quality problems than cars in the river corridor? If more, what changes can be made to busses to reduce or mitigate this problem. In the larger picture, can impact by cars be reduced?
- Do cars conflict with other users of the roads such as bicycle, equestrian, pedestrian users in the river corridor? If so, what changes in the number or location of cars can help corrected or reduced these conflicts?
- Is the highway bridge adequate for the foreseeable traffic load, existing or desired pedestrian use, wheelchair use, bicycle use, or adversely affect (or be adversely affected by) river hydraulics? What is its expected life of the existing highway bridge?
- Are there people who could use this corridor that are now not well served by the present bus

service who could be better served by smaller or different type of busses?

- Are there national security concerns about the highway in Tuolumne Meadows or to Hetch Hetchy Reservoir? How can they be carried on without impacting the river zone or Tuolumne meadows?
- How does the Canyon tunnel ROW impact the designated river corridor by its 1391 cubic feet per second capacity? What other impacts does this ROW have on the river corridor?

Boating:

- The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act fully supports the public's ability to float rivers in protected wilderness areas. What is the NPS's rationale for closing the Tuolumne to paddling as a wilderness compliant use? We are very interested in the evaluation of an alternative that would open all sections of the Tuolumne River to Boating.
- Discuss Public Trust Doctrine, legal framework, policy and safety issues associated with recreational boating on the TR.
- What are the needs of white water boaters in the BLM section of the river as to the certainty of flow and time that flow begins every day of the week through the weekend after Labor Day? How far in advance do whitewater interest need this flow information?

Trails

- Discuss the advantages of managing the river corridor from the Wilderness boundary below Hetch Hetchy to the park boundary as a wild area with no new trails and no major trail improvements. This rugged, steep area is one of the few low elevation wild places in the park. The primitive, steep Poopenaut Valley trail may be the only passable trail access to this stretch of the TR in the park.

E. Description of River Corridor (by resource activities and land uses, as applicable)

1. Basic Hydrology

- Is the highway bridge adequate for a natural river flow? The idea is to keep all the bridges from interfering with the hydrology.
- Can the river adequately pass the trail bridges in the Park? List the two vehicle bridges on this river and the eight or more trail bridges and their locations?
- What impacts do paved and unpaved roads, and paved and unpaved parking areas in Tuolumne Meadows have on the Tuolumne River through road runoff and increased siltation in the river?
- What impacts do paved and unpaved roads, and paved and unpaved parking areas at Hetch Hetchy have on the Tuolumne River through road runoff and increased siltation in the river?
- What impact do the trail bridges have on the Tuolumne River corridor? Are power tools and equipment used in Yosemite Wilderness for maintenance and repair of these bridges and trails?
- Do the John Muir and Pacific Crest trails have an adverse impact on the Tuolumne River and the Tuolumne River corridor? If any, what corrective steps need to be taken?

2. Timber

3. Agriculture and Livestock Grazing

- Are there historic sites, artifacts, routes and river crossings used by miners, stock grazers, hunters or other resource harvesters in the river corridor? Likewise, are there any emigrant, trader or military use remnants in the corridor? An example of human activities might be at the soda spring area of Tuolumne Meadows.

4. Visitor Use (by types/amounts, including user profile and visitation estimates, e.g., commercial/private)

a. Activity preferences (including recreation)

Camping:

- Is there increased impact from camping within 100 feet of designated segments? How can campers be taught to avoid that 100 foot zone if there is adverse impact from camping there?
- Is there any impact on the campsites in the river corridor from teaching bears and other wildlife to avoid humans?
- Discuss bear management in this part of the park and discuss all additional ideas for bear management beyond what is presently used. We hear that a bear has found how to open one of the bear box latches in the YV. Should bear boxes be placed in back country camps and what other good methods are there of keeping bear away from food that people bring with them? Has bear management been successful in teaching them to stay away from people? What we want are wild bears that are not attracted to people.

b. Season and times of use

- Do present winter activities in Tuolumne Meadows have any impact on the river and its corridor that could be mitigated?

c. Party size and place of origin

d. Visitation estimates

5. Energy/Minerals and utilization

6. Military operations (as applicable)

- Do specialized military teams use the river corridor for training? If so what is the impact of that use?

7. County comprehensive planning (local land use zoning)

- Do contiguous counties have views and general plan requirements that need to be considered in planning for the river zone or in Tuolumne Meadows?

8. Overlapping administrative/congressional designations

- Is there conflict between Wilderness designation and Wild and Scenic River

designation in the park?

9. Native American and tribal considerations

- Are there Native Americans sites, artifacts, food plants and basket-making plants gathering areas or trade route trails in the river corridor that need identification and protection? (Sonny Hendricks at the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk has expressed to one of the authors his interest in the tribe studying and regaining some control over ancestral sites along the river.)

10. Health, Safety, Search and Rescue Considerations

11. Monitoring and Enforcement

- What success or problems are there from the wilderness permit use and stock presence on environmental and social impacts in the river corridor?

12. Information, Education, Interpretation, Signs

- Would there be positive or negative impacts of placing signs and displays calling attention to the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River at Tioga Pass parking areas, Tuolumne Meadows, Hetch Hetchy and in the river corridor near the two High Sierra Camps?
- Would visitor experience be enriched by pointing out the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River's outstanding values in ranger talks, on ranger led hikes near the river corridor, in articles in the "Yosemite Guide" and by notation of the river status on the "Yosemite Official Map & Guide"?

13. Wildlife, Plants and Fluvial Morphology (added by submitting groups)

- What negative and positive impacts does fishing have on the native strains of trout and other native fish?
- Are there non-native fish in the Tuolumne River and in Hetch Hetchy Reservoir that should be controlled and removed because of impacts on native fish species in the river, and on other native animal species in the river and river corridor?
- Are there non-native animals and amphibians species in the river and river corridor that are impacting native species?
- Are there non-native plants in the Tuolumne River corridor that need to be controlled? If so, what method of control is wise?
- Are there invasive non-native wildlife, amphibians, fish, birds or plants that need to be removed from the river corridor to protect native species?
- Are there rare, threatened or endangered native wildlife, amphibians, fish, birds or plants that need care and attention in the river corridor? What can be done to improve their habitat?
- Are there native wildlife, amphibians, fish, birds or plants that are missing from the river corridor that could be reintroduced?
- What impact does the Dana Fork Diversion Dam have on that fork and the river corridor downstream? What impacts would dam removal have on that fork and on the river corridor?

- What impacts do Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and Canyon Tunnel have on the river below O'Shaughnessy Dam?
- Is water flow for native fish and stream purposes adequate below Hetch Hetchy Reservoir?
- If San Francisco should choose to relocate their reservoir storage away from Hetch Hetchy Valley, what ecological impacts would that have on the river above and below there? Can an inventory and population census of major life forms at Pate Valley and at Poopenaut Valley be done to allow drawing inferences as to what Hetch Hetchy Valley would be like? What is the biology of each valley (insects, birds and their migration patterns, mammals and their migration patterns, and microbiology, lichen composition and growth rates, tree inventory and growth rates, grass, flowers and other small plant inventory and growth rate, non native plants; etc.), the geomorphology, fluvial morphology, ichthyology (species inventory and relative and population census--number and age of species, and if brown trout and other non native species are present) in either valley? Can any conclusions be drawn about impact of human use today on each valley, and a rough guess at number of humans using each? Is there any difference in water quality, oxygen content or temperature at the two valleys? Are any differences caused by the presence of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and the diversion from the river, differences in flow at each valley or other differences that can be identified between the two valleys?
- Has air pollution or human actions caused degradation of lichen species in the W&S river zone along the two Dept of Interior segments of the river? If no lichen base line studies have been done in these two segments, could those be undertaken by Interior or by researchers acting under DOI direction?
- Describe corrective actions that have been used in the past to reduce impacts on meadows. Are more corrective actions needed in the river corridor and in TM?

III. Major Issues (as applicable)

A. Boundary identification and description (Statute, GPS, GIS, aliquot parts, etc.)

- Boundaries of segments pose a problem here. It is suggested that you take a new look at how they are drawn or located and where the headwaters are located. Among the choices seem to be setting the boundary a general half mile distance from the river high water mark, by survey with meets and bounds using local landmarks, by GPS, or by quarter sections where section lines are available. We don't advocate any one, but the law says you must establish boundaries. See W&S reference Guide.
- Is there a need to draw river corridor lines and name segments as wild classification within designated wilderness areas, especially near Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp?
- There probably is a need to identify river corridor boundaries and name classified segments as wild, scenic and recreational both within and outside wilderness areas.

B. Private and nonfederal land uses

- List parcels San Francisco owns within the river corridor. Is there a plan to acquire parcel(s) as stated in the DEIS GMP at p 71?

C. Visitor use capacities, rationing, use limits or allocations

- Can overnight camping be resumed along the Dana Fork when the Dana Diversion Dam is no longer used for water supply?
- Since the John Muir Trail and Pacific Crest Trail both parallel and are in the river zone, the summer carrying capacity of the river for hiking and camping need to be discussed, especially the Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp, the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge on Dana Fork and Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

D. Recreation development and/or construction activities

- Present wastewater disposal, stable and Tuolumne Meadows Lodge plus any plans and goals for revision of these and changing water supply need to be discussed.

E. Instream flow, water quality and quantity (Impacts to free-flow)

- What impact does the Dana Fork Diversion Dam have on that fork and the river corridor downstream? What impacts will dam removal have on that fork and on the river corridor?
- What impacts do Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and Canyon Tunnel have on the river below O'Shaughnessy Dam?
- Is water flow for native fish and stream purposes adequate below Hetch Hetchy Reservoir?
- Is stream release in summer and winter from O'Shaughnessy Dam adequate for fish, wildlife and stream invertebrates in that reach of the river to the park boundary? USFWS and SFPUC are now doing a study of the river release at O'Shaughnessy on the river corridor below. Can that work be coordinated with this river plan?
- What impacts does Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and Canyon Tunnel diversion have on the river flow and quality below that impoundment?

F. Section 7 of the WSRA assessment

G. State Scenic Waterway classifications

H. Acquisition Needs (Fee title, Easement, Rights-Of-Way)

- If San Francisco owns land in the river zone in Poopenaut Valley, is there need for acquisition of that parcel?

I. Environmental Justice

- Will additional low income, handicapped and minority groups be purposefully attracted by the National Park Service and by Yosemite Concession Services to and be hired for work on trails, at lodging, in campground jobs, in wildlife management, in visitor information staff, introduced to and instructed in enjoyment and protection of the Tuolumne River and its corridor?

IV. Management Direction

A. Goals and Desired Future Conditions (defined objectives for each segment, including Recreation

- Will use of bicycles and scooters in the river corridor be under the same rules as in Yosemite Valley?
- Should this plan be used as the planning vehicle to plan and implement a more pedestrian, wheelchair, and bicycle friendly Tuolumne Meadows facilities?

Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)/Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) parameters/findings)

B. Standards and Guidelines by Resource

C. River Corridor Boundaries & Classifications

- What is the physical extent of the Tuolumne Meadows Plan?
- Review 5(a) segmentation, classification, and boundary "determinations." Reiterate statutory 5(a) segmentation, classification, and boundary status defining "interim" status before post-designation segmentation, classification, and boundary decisions. Review statutory authority to undertake this review and determination. Develop decision-making process, approach, philosophy, criteria to guide review and decisions to make these determinations, and for any subsequent review of these determinations.
- Is there a need to draw river corridor lines and name segments as wild classification within designated wilderness areas, especially near Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp?
 - Is there a need to identify river corridor boundaries and name classified segments as wild, scenic and recreational outside wilderness areas?

D. Zoning or River Protection Overlay

E. Section 7 Determination Process

F. Principles for Land Acquisition

V. Management Actions

A. Guidance criteria for site-specific agency decisions (including ROS/LAC, etc)

B. Description of probable management actions (including objectives/intent by segment/classification)

C. Proposed permitted river events/uses

- Will boating permits be necessary in Tuolumne and Dana meadows, and down to Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, and below O'Shaughnessy Dam?

D. Priority areas for restoration, rehabilitation, or treatment

- Will the Dana Fork diversion dam be removed as soon as an alternate water supply is in place?
- Where will Dana Fork diversion dam spoil be disposed?

VI. Implementation

A. Assignment of responsibility

B. Monitoring/evaluation strategy

1. Standards and guidelines

2. Indicators for management actions

- Are native and non-native fish populations monitored in the river corridor? If not, should they be? Have cutthroat trout been removed from Delaney Cr as planned in the GMP?
- What negative and positive impacts does fishing have on the native strains of trout and other native fish, and on other aquatic life and amphibians?
- Are there non-native fish in the Tuolumne River and in Hetch Hetchy Reservoir that should be controlled and removed because of impacts on native fish species in the river, and on other native animal species in the river and river corridor?
- Are there non-native animals and amphibians species in the river and river corridor that are impacting native species?
- Are there non-native plants in the Tuolumne River corridor that need to be controlled? If so, what method of control is wise?
- Are there invasive non-native wildlife, amphibians, fish, birds or plants that need to be removed from the river corridor to protect native species?
- Are there rare, threatened or endangered native wildlife, amphibians, fish, birds or plants that need care and attention in the river corridor? What can be done to improve their habitat?
- Are there native wildlife, amphibians, fish, birds or plants that are missing from the river corridor that could be reintroduced?
- Is water flow for native fish and stream purposes adequate below Hetch Hetchy Reservoir?
- If San Francisco should choose to relocate their reservoir storage away from Hetch Hetchy Valley, what ecological impacts would that have on the river above and below there? Can an inventory and population census of major life forms at Pate Valley and at Poopenaut Valley be done to allow drawing inferences as to what Hetch Hetchy Valley would be like? What is the biology of each valley (insects, birds and their migration patterns, mammals and their migration patterns, and microbiology, lichen composition and growth rates, tree inventory and growth rates, grass, flowers and other small plant inventory and growth rate, non native plants; etc.), the geomorphology, fluvial morphology, ichthyology (species inventory and relative number and age of species, and if brown trout and other non native species are present) in either valley? Can any conclusions be drawn about impact of human use today on each valley, and a rough guess at number of humans using each? Is there any

difference in water quality, oxygen content or temperature at the two valleys? Are any differences caused by the presence of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and the diversion from the river, differences in flow at each valley or other differences that can be identified between the two valleys?

- Are there lichen baseline inventories in river segments from Mt Dana and Mt Lyell to the park boundary? If not how could those be done and used in planning and management?

3. Process (intensity, frequency, personnel needs, costs/budgets

C. Cost estimates (management, development, maintenance, acquisition)

- The source of wild and scenic rivers fascinates the public. What will it cost to add informational signs and teach rangers to talk about this wild and scenic river? What will evening programs cost to make and present every year that focus on the Tuolumne River including the use of HHV as a water supply reservoir?

D. Timetable

- Explain why this management plan has been so long in coming (20 years late). Does doing it now allow a broader look at the needs and possibilities for restoration public use and protection along the river?

E. Partnerships, Cost-sharing, Volunteers

- Could volunteers in boats be used to remove non-native brown trout from Hetch Hetchy Reservoir if the river plan determines that would protect native species in the river above and below the reservoir?

VII Environmental Analysis and Alternatives (WSR specific)

- Is an Environmental Analysis adequate for the kind of questions the management plan will address or is an EIS necessary?
- Is there a need for a Tuolumne Meadows Plan or a Hetch Hetchy Plan similar to the Yosemite Valley Plan in addition to this management plan, or can they all be combined in this plan?
 - If no lichen base line studies have been done, they should be done now to assure that pollution of all kinds does not impact sensitive species in the river zone in the future.
 - If no plant or animal base line studies have been done, they should be done now to assure that pollution of all kinds does not impact sensitive species in the river zone in the future.
 - Will Tuolumne Meadows plan include impacts the campground and other facilities outside the river zone have on the river zone? And vice versa?

VIII. Appendices

A. Annotated WSR Act, river-specific enabling legislation, other laws

- See Footnote at end.

B. Map Data/Maps, Legal Description of Boundaries

- Should Wild and Scenic River segment zones be added to topo maps covering the Park?

C. Resource Assessment (ORVs)

- What would be the impacts of allowing snowmobiles and mountain bikes into the river zones seasonally?

D. Inventory Documentation

- Are there non-native fish in the Tuolumne River and in Hetch Hetchy Reservoir?
- Are there non-native animals and amphibians species in the river and river corridor that are impacting native species?
- Are there non-native plants in the Tuolumne River corridor that need to be controlled?
- Are there invasive non-native wildlife, amphibians, fish, birds or plants that need to be removed from the river corridor to protect native species?
- Are there rare, threatened or endangered native wildlife, amphibians, fish, fairy shrimp (YA newsletter June 25, 2004) birds or plants that need care and attention in the river corridor?
- Are there native wildlife, amphibians, fish, birds or plants that are missing from the river corridor that could be reintroduced?
- What impacts do Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and Canyon Tunnel have on the river below O'Shaughnessy Dam?
- Is water flow for native fish and stream purposes adequate below Hetch Hetchy Reservoir?
- Can an inventory of major life forms at Pate Valley and at Poopenaut Valley be done to allow drawing inferences as to what impacts different river flow régimes have on these differences river segment--Hetch Hetchy Valley would be like? What is the biology of each valley (insects, birds and their migration patterns, mammals and their migration patterns, and microbiology, lichen composition and growth rates, tree inventory and growth rates, grass, flowers and other small plant inventory and growth rate, non native plants; etc.), the geomorphology, fluvial morphology, ichthyology (species inventory and relative number and age of species, and if brown trout and other non native species are present) in either valley? Can any conclusions be drawn about impact of human use today on each valley, and a rough guess at number of humans using each? Is there any difference in water quality, oxygen content or temperature at the two valleys? Are any differences caused by the presence of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and the diversion from the river, differences in flow at each valley or other differences that can be identified between the two valleys?

- Has air pollution or human actions caused degradation of lichen species in the W&S river zone along the two Dept of Interior segments of the river? If no lichen base line studies have been done in these two segments, could those be undertaken by Interior or by researchers acting under DOI direction?
- Has a search been done for archeological sites, historical routes, habitation sites, and objects been done in the entire river corridor and in Tuolumne Meadows?
- There is need for a census of species and their seasonal abundance of each at key sites seasonally along the entire Wild and Scenic River corridor in the park and on BLM managed land?

E. River Related Studies (LAC, Visitor Capacity, Instream Flow, Water Quality/Quantity)

- Is stream release in summer and winter from O'Shaughnessy Dam adequate for fish, wildlife and stream invertebrates in that reach of the river to the park boundary? USFWS and SFPUC are now doing a study of the river release at O'Shaughnessy on the river corridor below. Can that work be coordinated with this river plan?
- What impacts does Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and Canyon Tunnel diversion have on the river above and below that impoundment?

F. Water Resource Project Evaluation Process (Section 7 of WSR Act)

- Evaluate the impact of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and Canyon Tunnel diversion on the river above and below that impoundment and what changes and impacts would be expected if O'Shaughnessy Dam were removed and a partly free flowing stream passed through that valley.
- Evaluate impacts of any other Raker Act facilities on the designated river corridor.

G. State, Local, Tribal regulations specific to protecting resource values

- How could tribal peoples be employed in unique positions in and near this river zone and in Tuolumne Meadows generally?

H. Bibliography

I. Glossary/Acronyms/Definitions

J. List of Preparers

K. List of Figures/Illustrations

L. Boundaries and Classifications

M. Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- Would inclusion of a list, table or summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values that will be generated from answers to some of the questions asked be helpful? These are the values called for in Section 1(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and some of those are

listed in the river study and EIS of 1979. The Draft ORV paper handed out at workshops is a good start.

- Should a separate list of values be shown for the portion of the river administered by the BLM?

N. Management Zones, River Protection Overlays

- What is the scope and physical extent of the Tuolumne Meadows Plan?
- Review 5(a) segmentation, classification, and boundary "determinations." Reiterate statutory 5(a) segmentation, classification, and boundary status defining "interim" status before post-designation segmentation, classification, and boundary decisions. Review statutory authority to undertake this review and determination. Develop decision-making process, approach, philosophy, criteria to guide review and decisions to make these determinations, and for any subsequent review of these determinations.
- Is there a need to draw river corridor lines and name segments as wild classification within designated wilderness areas, especially near Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp?
- There probably is a need to identify river corridor boundaries and name classified segments as wild, scenic and recreational outside wilderness areas.

O. History of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic process (this section added by submitting groups)

- The two principal authors offer use of our libraries records, unorganized as they are, to the park staff to understand the many steps that have preceded this planning effort. The CMP should articulate a little of the history of the Acts and the struggle that led to passage of legislation for this important park resource.
- The two principal authors also are available to explain any part of the points stated herein that the staff might wish.

X. List of Tables

Footnote: From 16 USC 1274(a), i.e. from section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act:

Codified legislation: (53)

Tuolumne, California - The main river from its sources on Mount Dana and Mount Lyell in Yosemite National Park to Don Pedro Reservoir consisting of approximately 83 miles as generally depicted on the proposed boundary map entitled "Alternative A" contained in the Draft Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Study and Environmental Impact Statement published by the United States Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture in May 1979; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture.

After consultation with State and local governments and the interested public and within two years from September 28, 1984, the Secretary shall take such action as is required under subsection (b) of this section.

Nothing in this chapter shall preclude the licensing, development, operation, or maintenance of water resources facilities on those portions of the North Fork, Middle Fork or South Fork of the Tuolumne or Clavey Rivers that are outside the boundary of the wild and

scenic river area as designated in this section.

Nothing in this section is intended or shall be construed to affect any rights, obligations, privileges, or benefits granted under any prior authority of law including chapter 4 of the Act of December 19, 1913, commonly referred to as the Raker Act (38 Stat. 242) and including any agreement or administrative ruling entered into or made effective before September 28, 1984.

For fiscal years commencing after September 30, 1985, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this subsection.

Legislative history: Pub. L. 98-425, title II, Sec. 201, Sept. 28, 1984, 98 Stat. 1632; 16 USC 1274(a). Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Pub. L. 90-542, Oct. 2, 1968, 82 Stat. 906.

Insert the CA Wilderness Act as offered by Pete Wilson and bills by Rick Lehman and Tony Coelho that didn't pass.

List legislative history to include committee reports on the two house bills and Senate bill if there is any committee history. The principal authors may be able to provide some of these papers.

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